

January 14, 1974

Start Belt #9

to achieve equality of education is absolutely ridiculous. These conditions are going to go on. There isn't anyone person or twelve people that can find out and keep on top of what is going on in the Omaha schools all the time. Two or three thousand teachers, thousands of classes, it is an impossibility. The chief determinant is the concentration of children with problems in one area. And you're saying we don't give a damn about these concentrations. When it comes to the handicapped, you do care. Let's not put them all in one room. Let's get them mainstream. When it deals with poverty and race then we've got a whole different ball game. And Senator Carpenter, you might disagree with me a little but I don't care what you do to the school board until you address yourself to the classroom situation which this constitutional amendment does, you're not going to change the situation.

PRESIDENT: Senator Snyder, then Waldron, then Proud, then Chambers.

SENATOR SNYDER. Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Addressing myself to the question of bracketing the bill. I would oppose bracketing the bill, I believe we have had a good discussion here this morning. I believe that most of us had our opinions on this issue I don't believe any opinions have been changed this morning by the conversations. I would only say a few words relative to this issue concerning my constituents that I believe that my constituents certainly do not want forced bussing of school students. I have two youngsters in school, I have a third that will be in there next year. I don't want bussing. I don't believe my neighbors do. I don't believe anywhere near a majority of people in the Omaha School District want forced bussing. I believe that we can say that with some degree of safety. Certainly there are those who do, but certainly not the majority. I just don't want my kinds to be made pawns. I live in a mixed neighborhood through personal choice. Not because anyone said I had to. And believe me if you think you are going to gain something by an artificial means such when you force people to do something, you might get some short range benefits but I cannot believe the American public with free spirit are going to hold on to any long range benefits. They may go along with you because they have to, but if you are desirous of having true equal rights and true neighborhood togetherness and brotherhood in this country and especially now we are talking about Omaha, you are not going to get it when you force people to do something against their own personal wishes especially a majority of personal wishes. Mr. President, again I reiterate let us not pass over this today, let us not bracket it, let's go ahead and vote on it now.

PRESIDENT: Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, I'm sorry to interrupt the discussion, but I'd like to announce the miscellaneous subjects committee will meet immediately following adjournment to act on LB613, the Homestead Bill and will meet in Room 2102.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Proud. The motion is to bracket the bill on general file pending an interim study.